

ITINERARY  
***NORTHEAST INDIA:  
Eaglenest, Kaziranga & More***  
*April 20-May 7, 2019*



*Kaziranga is a paradise for many different forms of wildlife. Some of the most prominent residents are Indian One-horned Rhinoceros, here, accompanied by several Cattle Egrets. We'll have a chance to ride elephants through this area, as well as tour by jeep, to see what we can find. Photograph by guide Phil Gregory.*

*We include here information for those interested in the 2019 Field Guides Northeast India: Eaglenest, Kaziranga & More tour:*

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

*Those who register for the tour will be sent this additional material:*

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from our web site)
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a reference list
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

Our unique Northeast India itinerary covers a great range of habitats, from the elephant grass of the Assam plains to the high mixed pine and broadleaf forests of the amazing Himalayan passes, plus various forest types from dry dipterocarp to montane boreal forest. Many species of the Eastern Himalayas Endemic Bird Area may be found, some shared with Bhutan or Yunnan but perhaps easier to find here, with Himalayan Monal, and Ward's Trogon as examples.

Birdwatching in this area of north-eastern India takes us to the low altitude national parks at **Kaziranga** and **Nameri** where a variety of birds and mammals can be seen, then on up into the foothills of the Himalayas on the border with

Bhutan. A world class birding area, **Eaglenest Sanctuary** is famous for the variety, numbers and accessibility of the bird species found there. Over 450 species have been observed in the Eaglenest area and the surrounding higher altitude forests. In addition, the area is home to some great mammals including Asiatic Elephant, whilst butterflies, amphibians and reptiles are also well represented.

We will be looking for a range of both lowland and montane specialities in some really beautiful country, including Swamp Francolin, Slender-billed Vulture, Snow Partridge, Himalayan Monal, just perhaps Bengal Florican, Blue-rumped Pitta, Chestnut-backed, Brown-capped, Spotted, Scaly, Striped and Bhutan Laughingthrushes, the recently-described, rare, elusive and very beautiful Bugun Liocichla, various species of Fulvetta, the extraordinary Fire-tailed Myzornis and the strange Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler. There are some amazingly beautiful sunbirds too with Crimson, Black-throated, Green-tailed, Mrs Gould's and Fire-tailed sunbirds some of the most striking of the family.

**About the Physical Requirements & Pace:** Our pace will be mostly moderate, but note there are a few long travel days (in two vehicles where we must cycle in and out of cramped, middle seats) to get to some of our birding sites. Note that this tour ranges from the quite hot lowlands to the cool mountain zones, so a range of clothing is needed. It can be cold at high altitudes, so warm jackets are advised and a fleece is useful for the tent nights. The maximum altitude is c.14000 ft (4300 m) on our day visit at Sela Pass.

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office. If they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with the guide for the tour.

## About the Birding Areas

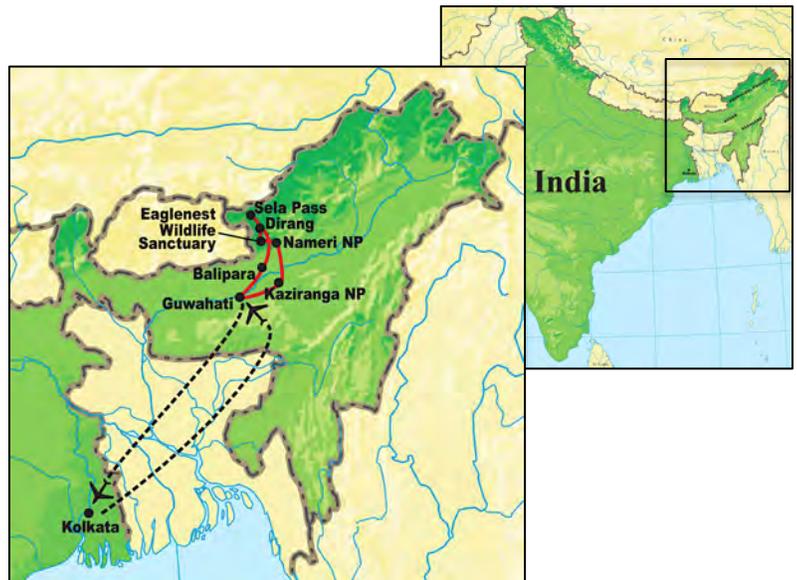
**Kolkata (Calcutta)** The bustling city of Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) is our point of entry into India. It is the capital of West Bengal, and is the third largest city on the sub continent. It is India's oldest port that is still in operation, and the only river port. Kolkata was an important centre during the days of the East India Company, and is still the commercial and financial hub of east and northeast India. A visit to a local marshland bird sanctuary will give us an introduction to the area's birdlife.

**Kaziranga National Park** is located in Assam on the floodplains on both sides of the Brahmaputra River, and covers some 858 sq. kms. A World Heritage Site, Kaziranga holds 2/3 of the remaining wild ne-Horned (Indian) Rhinoceros, and the highest density of Bengal Tiger, of any protected area in the world. It is also one of the last strongholds of the wild Water Buffalo, holding about 57% of the world's population.

BirdLife International recognises Kaziranga as an Important Bird Area. Transport around the park will be in jeeps and also on one morning by elephant!

**Nameri National Park** is located in the foothills of the Himalayas in Assam. It is most famous for its large numbers of Asiatic Elephants, but is also home to Tigers, Leopards, Dhole, Sambar, and even Himalayan Black Bear. Unfortunately, there has been a lot of human/animal conflict since the park was first established in 1978, as local people want to graze cattle, which are in direct competition with the herds of elephant. Logging is also a threat. The park has a list of over 300 species of bird. The best birding here is often found along the rivers, which are accessed by canoe, and the whole area has long been regarded as an angler's paradise.

**Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary (Eagle's Nest)**, well up in the foothills of the Himalayas on the border with Bhutan, became famous with the discovery of Bugun Liocichla. It has become a real mecca for serious birders, with over 450 species of birds recorded, and offering more affordable and easier access to many of the birds previously only looked for in Bhutan. In addition, it is home to around 165 species of butterflies, at least 15 species of mammals, at least 24 species of amphibian, and a large number of reptiles, some of which are very rare. It is a naturalist's paradise!





*One of the exciting activities we'll have is an elephant safari into Kaziranga National Park. We'll look for Great Indian Rhinoceros and Bengal Tiger, as well as birds such as the Bengal Florican. Photograph by guide Phil Gregory.*

## Itinerary for Northeast India: Eaglenest, Kaziranga & More

**Day 1-2, Sat-Sun 20-21 Apr. Departure from US; arrive in Kolkata.** On arrival at Kolkata, you will be met by someone from the hotel for a transfer. We will go out for an afternoon birding session in the nearby areas looking for birds like Yellow Bittern, Bengal Bushlark, Oriental Pratincole, Striated Grassbird, Bristled Grassbird and a few other species. Dinner about 7 pm of April 21 at the hotel. Night at Pipal Tree, Kolkata.

**Day 3, Mon, 22 Apr. Kolkata / Kaziranga National Park.** Flight to Guwahati and drive to Kaziranga. On arrival, we will check in to our simple but nicely done lodge. If time permits, we will enjoy a safari in Kaziranga, or we may bird on the outskirts of the park. Night at the *Infinity Resort* or similar at Kaziranga.

**Day 4, Tue, 23 Apr. Kaziranga National Park.** Early this morning, we will head to the outskirts of the park looking for birds like the Puff-throated Babbler, Rufous-necked Laughing-thrush, Scarlet Minivet, Rosy Minivet, Rusty-capped Babbler, White-browed Scimitar Babbler, and the Blue-naped Pitta. Later, we will drive inside the park for our first safari. During our stay at Kaziranga, we will be looking for the Bengal Florican, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Grey-bellied Tesia, endemic Swamp Francolin, Eastern Baya Weaver, the rare but possible Finn's Weaver, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Pallas's Fish Eagle, Hen Harrier, Pied Harrier, Eastern Marsh Harrier, Crested Serpent-Eagle, Crested Honey Buzzard, Pied Falconet, Green-billed Malkoha, Siberian and Himalayan Rubythroat, Brown Shrike, Large Cuckooshrike, Black-necked Stork, Grey-headed and Northern Lapwings, Spotted Redshank, Spot-billed Pelican, Long-tailed Minivet, Golden-fronted Leafbird, Pale Blue Flycatcher, Streak-throated Woodpecker, Thick-billed Warbler, Spot-winged Starling, White-vented Myna, Jungle Myna, Brahminy Starling, Bank Myna, Brown Fish-Owl and many other birds. Mammals we will watch for include the majestic Great Indian (One-horned) Rhinoceros, Asiatic Elephant, Hog Deer, the nominate race of the Barasingha or Swamp Deer, Sambhar, Barking Deer, a possibility of Bengal Tiger, the rare Hog Badger, Smooth-coated Otter, Small Indian Mongoose, and more. Night at the *Infinity Resort* or similar.

**Day 5, Wed, 24 Apr. Kaziranga NP** Today, we will enjoy a morning elephant ride inside the park, which will give us a chance to get up close views of the Great Indian Rhinoceros, and with luck, a Bengal Tiger (if a kill has been made in the elephant-ride area). The ride also offers another chance of Bengal Florican, as when the elephants move around they may flush the bird from the bush. In the later morning and again that afternoon we will bird some other sectors of the park. Night at *Infinity Resort* or similar.

**Day 6, Thu, 25 Apr. Kaziranga National Park / Nameri National Park.** Morning birding in and around the park then we'll go back to our lodge for lunch, then take the approximately 2-hour drive to Nameri National Park. On arrival at

Nameri, we will check in at the simple lodge, then we'll bird the outskirts of the camp, where birds like Great Hornbill, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Brown Hawk-Owl, Pin-tailed Green Pigeon, Thick-billed Green Pigeon, Himalayan Flameback and Greater Flameback may be found. On the Jia Bhoreli River, we will look for River Lapwing, Pallas's Fish-Eagle, Ruddy Shelduck, and Great Stone Curlew, and we'll hope to see some Wreathed Hornbills fly by as they did in 2018. Night at *Nameri Eco Camp*.

**Day 7, Fri, 26 Apr. Nameri National Park.** This morning, we will take a walk in the forest across the river with a chance of White-winged Duck, Ruddy Kingfisher, Hooded Pitta, and various forest birds. This afternoon, after lunch at the camp, Dinner will be at the lodge. Night at *Nameri Eco Camp*.



*We will be in the high elevations near the border with Bhutan when we visit the Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary. This area holds many interesting birds, and we'll have four days to explore this amazing landscape. Photograph by guide Phil Gregory.*

**Day 8, Sat, 27 Apr. Nameri to Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.** We will make another visit to the sanctuary today – looking for Abbot's Babbler, Pied Falconet, Slaty-bellied Flycatcher, Sand Lark, Wreathed Hornbill, Sultan Tit, White-winged Wood Duck, Barred Cuckoo-Dove, Dollarbird, Ruddy Kingfisher, Emerald Dove, Blue-naped Pitta, Chestnut-headed Tesia and few other good birds. We may also add an interesting reptile species – Tokay Gecko.

After some morning birding (and after brunch!), we will leave for Eaglenest, about a five-hour drive. The Eaglenest area is a 2800 m high pass across the Chaku Ridge. The pass is named after the famed 4<sup>th</sup> Indian Army Division of World War II fame – whose divisional logo was the Eagle. The jeep track which cuts across this great ridge, was built as a military line of communications to support the operations of this Division against the Chinese invasion of 1962. This highway, which is the entry route to the sanctuary, passes along the eastern borders of the Eaglenest and provides an interesting birding transect from 300-1600 m altitude.

Both the Eagle's Nest and the adjoining Sessa Orchid Sanctuary are located at the eastern end of the Northeast Indian State of Arunachal Pradesh, approximately 40 km east of Bhutan, and therefore are part of the Eastern Himalayas Endemic Bird Area. We will be camping short of the pass at the Lama Campsite, which can be described as the entry to this area, made internationally famous by the discovery of the Bugun Liocichla in 2004.

Apart from Lama Camp, the other key areas are Eaglenest Pass (8900 ft or 2800 metres), Sunderview Camp (7600 ft or 2460 m), Bompou (6000 ft or 1940 m), Sessni Camp (3900 ft or 1250 m), Khellong, Doimara, and Kamengbari.

This area needs at least four days to explore, and one extra day to allow for road and weather-related delays and catching up with skulkers. The area is a part of the border between India and China, and hence a large military presence is felt along the entire route. There are several war memorials along this route – reminders of the Sino-Indian war in 1962. On the way, we will look for birds like Short-billed Minivet, Daurian Redstart, Orange-bellied Leafbird and Striated Yuhina, Tickell's Thrush, Black-chinned Yuhina, White-breasted Parrotbill (a split from Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill) and White-tailed Nuthatch. Night in tented accommodation at *Lama Camp*.

**Days 9-11, Sun-Tue, 28-30 Apr. Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.** For the next few days, we will be birding inside the sanctuary with regular hikes from our base – some easy walks, and few a little more demanding. Birding is very rich in this area, with excellent birds like the recently described Bugun Liocichla, maybe the very elusive Fire-tailed Myzornis, Beautiful Nuthatch, Grey Peacock-Pheasant, Eye-browed Wren-Babbler, Pygmy Cupwing (Wren-Babbler), Yellow-breasted Fulvetta, White-tailed Robin, Himalayan Cutia, Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Brown Bullfinch, both Scarlet and Gold-naped Finch, Rufous-breasted Blue Robin, Brown Parrotbill, the rare but possible Temminck's Tragopan, Common Hill Partridge, Streak-throated Barwing, Green Shrike-babbler, Beautiful Sibia, Snowy-browed Flycatcher, Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, Maroon-backed Accentor, Rosy Pipit, Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker, Buff Barred and Ashy-throated Warbler, Sikkim Wedge-billed Babblers, Long-tailed Broadbill, the rare Rufous-necked Hornbill, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, both Green and Purple Cochoa, Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon, Large Niltava, Pygmy Blue Flycatcher, Coral-billed and Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler, and both Ward's and Red-headed Trogon. Three nights in the large walk-in tents, probably at *Bompu Camp*.



*Coral-billed Scimitar-babbler is a possibility at Eaglenest. Photograph by participant Greg Griffith.*

**Day 12, Wed, 1 May. Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.** After a morning in the lower areas, we will walk slowly upwards, trying to reach Lama Camp area in time for an afternoon session in that area. We will seek Asian Emerald Cuckoo, Grey-crowned Warbler, Green Cochoa, and Spotted Elachura, plus Bar-winged, Long-billed, Scaly-breasted and Pygmy Wren Babblers. Other species include the Yellow-browed Tit, Black-faced Laughingthrush, Red-tailed Minla, Rufous-vented Yuhina, Black-throated Sunbird, Brown-throated Fulvetta, Crimson-breasted Woodpecker, and White-tailed Nuthatch, as well as many of the commoner species previously seen. Overnight at *Lama Camp*.

**Day 13, Thu, 2 May. Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary to Dirang.** After a short early morning birding session at the Lama Camp area, we will leave for Dirang, traveling via Bomdila. From Bomdila onwards there will be opportunities for birding and we will make a few stops as we keep driving up towards Dirang. On reaching Dirang, we will check in to our hotel, and if time permits, do some birding in the Sengti Valley nearby where Long-billed Plover is likely, also Brown Dipper, Rosy Pipit and maybe Black-tailed Crane. Overnight at *Pemaling Hotel* or similar.

**Day 14, Fri, 3 May.** Drive to Sela Pass (4500 m or 13900') and bird here for a couple of hours, and then drive back to the lodge. This will depend on the time and the snow situation at the high pass, last year we had snow and black ice in the early morning but in 2016 it was beautiful, typical unpredictable mountain weather. This high ridge is a great birding place, with a good chance for Grandala, assorted rosefinches -Dark-rumped, Dark-breasted and Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch, Golden Bush-Robin, Blue-capped Redstart, the lovely White-capped Redstart, and remote possibilities for Blood Pheasant, both Blyth's and Temminck's Tragopan, Himalayan Monal, Snow Partridge, and Snow Pigeon. Other birds include Himalayan Buzzard, maybe Himalayan Griffon. Overnight at *Pemaling Hotel* or similar.

**Day 15, Sat, 4 May. Dirang-Mandala Road.** The Mandala Road is about 30 km from Dirang, and we will start early today to reach here, looking for birds like the Rufous-bellied Eagle, Himalayan Swiftlet, Red-headed (Black-throated) Tit, Blue-capped Rock-thrush, Verditer Flycatcher, Grey-hooded Warbler, Green-backed Tit, Large Hawk-cuckoo, Indian Cuckoo, Spotted Laughingthrush, Grey-winged Blackbird, Dark-sided Flycatcher, Brown Bullfinch, Chestnut-tailed, Blue-winged and Red-tailed Minla, White-browed Shrike-babbler, Whiskered Yuhina, Yellow-browed Tit, Mrs. Gould's and



*We should find Green-tailed Sunbird and many other beauties along the Dirang-Mandala Road. Photograph by guide Phil Gregory.*

Green-tailed Sunbird, Chestnut-bellied Rock-thrush, Brown-throated Fulvettas, Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler, Darjeeling Woodpecker, White-collared Blackbird, Spotted Nutcracker, Large-billed Leaf-Warbler, Grey-sided Bush-Warbler, Whistler's Warbler, Beautiful Sibia, Golden Bush-Robin, Whistler's and Lemon-rumped Warbler, Ashy-throated and Large-billed Leaf-warbler, Rufous-vented Yuhina, Brown-throated Fulvetta, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, Black-faced Laughingthrush, Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, Bar-winged Wren-babbler, Grey-chinned Minivet, White-browed Shortwing, and Grey-crested, Rufous-fronted and Coal Tit, Brown-throated Treecreeper whilst Crested Bunting and Crested Kingfisher are also seen in the Sengti Valley here. Overnight at *Pemaling Hotel* or similar.

**Day 16, Sun, 5 May. Dirang to Balipara, Assam.** We will drive to Tezpur, with some birding stops in the bamboo zone en route, and check into our semi-luxurious rooms in the Wild Mahseer Lodge. The rooms have running hot water and other creature comforts that everyone will enjoy after the last week's challenging conditions, and the meals here are excellent. Time permitting – some tea tasting and a plantation visit might be organized, or you can simply relax in the comfortable surroundings of the East Himalaya Botanic Reserve where the lodge is sited. Overnight at *Wild Mahseer* at Tezpur.

**Day 17, Mon, 6 May. Balipara / Guwahati / Kolkata.** Early this morning, we will drive to Guwahati airport to fly to Kolkata. On arrival, we will have an optional afternoon of birding, in case we have missed out on some of the species that we tried for earlier in Kolkata. Overnight at a hotel in Kolkata.

**Day 18, Tue, 7 May. Kolkata to home.** In the morning, you will be transferred the short distance to the international airport to connect to your flight back home.

## About Your Guide

**Phil Gregory** was born in Southampton, UK, and became a birder as a youth when the steam engines were scrapped and birding offered a way to travel and look for wonderful things. The quest for birds has led to many forays in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australasia, and the Pacific. Phil and his wife, Sue, worked as teachers for eight years in Nigeria and Zambia, where they raised their family and made serious inroads into the birds of Africa, before transferring to the Falkland Islands for a two-year stint. They relocated to Papua New Guinea from 1991-97, where the 450-plus endemics proved a great challenge, and since then they have lived in the Northern Territory and now in north Queensland, Australia.

Phil's major interests are field identification, vocalizations, and the geographic distribution of birds. He is also a writer with assorted contributions to many reference books including doing some family accounts for the *Handbook of Birds of the World*. He has just completed working on a *Birds of Paradise and Bowerbirds* title in the Pica/Helm series, and a *Field Guide to the Birds of New Guinea* for Lynx Edicions was published in mid-2017, and new photoguide to the *Birds of North Queensland and Cape York* is due in 2018. He has also published and now maintains three Checklists, one for the *Birds of Australia and its Island Territories*, one for the *Solomon Islands* and the other for *New Guinea and Associated Islands*.

Phil and Sue run the well-known Cassowary House, a birding and nature lodge situated in a great birding spot in the rainforest at Kuranda, near Cairns in the far north of Queensland.

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/guides> for Phil's complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

An expert **local guide** will also be with our group.

*"Phil Gregory was outstanding, not only acoustically and visually, but also when it came to logistics and relating to individual tour participants and taking care of their special needs." D.S., Madagascar, Mauritius & Reunion*

## Financial Information

**FEE:** \$6575 from Kolkata

**DEPOSIT:** \$700

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** December 21, 2018

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional):** \$850

**LIMIT:** 8

## Other Things You Need to Know

**TOUR MANAGER:** The manager for this tour is Sharon Mackie. Sharon will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Accommodation during the tour vary from comfortable, western style, air-conditioned hotels in Kolkata and Dirang, to lovely bungalows on the tea estates, and a tented safari-style camp at *Nameri Eco Camp*, to more basic but still walk-in tented accommodation at Eaglenest at *Bompu Camp* (or equivalent), and *Lama Camp*.

Our hotel in Kolkata, will be a simple hotel with well-appointed rooms and a nice small restaurant, located about 20 minutes to half an hour from the airport. *Infinity Resort* at Kaziranga is a comfortable western-style lodge close to the park, whilst *Nameri Eco Camp* is a simple camp located on the edge of the Nameri Forest Reserve. It has spacious simple tents with toilets and a hot water facility (with some patience), and the food is really nice. The camps at Eaglenest, *Lama Camp* and *Bompu Camp*, are located on a ledge that faces the Gorichen ridge on the Himalayas, which forms a natural boundary between China and India. The camp has twin beds on bamboo bases, with a common toilet and a shared shower cabin a short walk away. The guests can get bucket hot water for showers, which work surprisingly well. The dining area has charging facilities for guests to charge their camera batteries and other devices. *Pemaling Hotel (or Norphel Resort)*, Dirang, offers simple functional rooms with clean beds and toilets, and running hot water; the food is Indian and Chinese and the hotel is located not too far from some of the key birding areas. *Wild Mahseer Lodge* in Tezpur is a tea plantation bungalow set up with spacious rooms and excellent bathrooms. The delicious food is both Indian and continental, the hotel offers a pleasing decor and it is a nice way to end the trip with some luxury after days of camping and birding.

Please let us know if you would like any extra nights accommodation at the beginning or end of the tour.

**DOCUMENTS:** US citizens will need a passport valid for six months beyond the date of their return, and a visa, to enter India. In accordance with international sanitary regulations, all persons entering India are requested to have a valid certificate of immunization against yellow fever. India e-visas are now readily obtainable on-line, you just print out a paper copy to show at immigration so they can process your passport.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the India consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online, or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp, and as a precaution, it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** Please plan to arrive in Kolkata, India, at or before 2:00 p.m. on April 20. You are welcome to book departure flights as early as 6:00 p.m. on the evening of May 6; however, since dinner is included on Day 17, keep in mind that you will miss the final dinner if you depart before 10:00 p.m.

Field Guides is a full-service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees.

**Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.**

**LUGGAGE:** Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** The **tour fee** is \$6,575 for one person in double occupancy from Kolkata. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 17, all meals from dinner on Day 2 through breakfast on Day 18, all ground transportation, the flights within India, entrance fees, **camera fees**, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fees do not include your airfare to and from India, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$850. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes). A couple of the hotels do not have twin share rooms.

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$700** per person. If registering by phone, a deposit must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by December 21, 2018. We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

**SMOKING:** Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 120 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

This policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour fees (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of the insurance is not refundable so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airlines restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer any refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When

consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive from us a brochure regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, 24-hour accident protection, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance when making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights), pre-existing conditions are covered. The CSA brochure includes a contact number; you may also purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.html> and clicking the link to CSA. Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the reverse side of the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Field Guides Incorporated accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

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